

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **The California State Capitol Is Just A Click Away California State Parks' New "California State Capitol - Your Connection" Now Available On-line**

**SACRAMENTO** - California State Parks has a new interactive educational website that brings the California State Capitol to on-line visitors with just a click of the mouse at [www.statecapitolmuseum.com](http://www.statecapitolmuseum.com).

The innovative website, "California State Capitol - Your Connection," provides information about California history and the legislative process. It helps citizens learn about their responsibility - and opportunity - to shape California's future by actively participating in the political process.

The site enables on-line visitors to learn more about California's government and take a "virtual tour" of the Capitol with 360-degree views of the building and park. The site's on-line Citizen's Guide provides information on how bills become laws, how to contact elected officials, and how to become more involved. An interactive map of the legislative districts allows users to click on their district and connect with their representatives. Educators will be happy to find a teacher's guide with lesson plans and activities designed to prepare students for a visit to the Capitol. The information supports California State Academic Standards in history and government. Visitors to the website may choose either English or Spanish. The site also meets ADA accessibility standards, providing accessibility to the widest possible audience.

California State Parks has also developed a web tablet (a hand-held version of the website) in conjunction with the website. Web tablets are offered to Capitol visitors who wish to take a self-guided tour of the building and grounds. Web tablet users may select one of five languages, including English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Japanese. Just as the on-line site does, web tablets allow visitors 360-degree views of several locations and offer rich descriptions of significant areas.

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The website and web tablet were developed in collaboration with California State Parks, California State Capitol Museum, Assembly Rules Committee, Design Media, and Redhill Studios. The program won endorsements by Dan Walden, President of the California School Board Association; Mignon Jackson, member of the Board of Directors of the California Teachers Association; and Cecilia Mansfield, director of legislation for the California State PTA.

The website received the 2002 Web Award for Achievement.

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